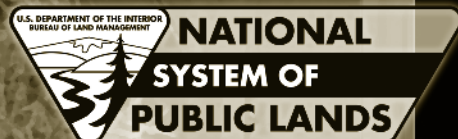


Making a Difference

BLM's 2009 VOLUNTEER Annual Report

BLM



From the DIRECTOR

DEAR BLM
VOLUNTEERS—

It is my pleasure to present the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Volunteer Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. It highlights an amazing year of accomplishments that would not have been possible without you.

Inspiring stories about BLM volunteers come to us from across the Nation every day. You save raptors and protect cultural treasures. You lead youth groups in removing invasive species and cleaning up trails. You staff visitor centers and conduct docent programs. In addition to the difference you make on our public lands through your day-to-day hard work, you help the BLM by connecting our agency with local communities and forging alliances with those who live most closely to the resources we manage.

You have immeasurably enhanced the many resources found on the BLM-managed National System of Public Lands, collectively contributing more than 1,132,936 hours of your time in FY 2009 alone. This work is equivalent to that of more than 625 full-time agency employees.



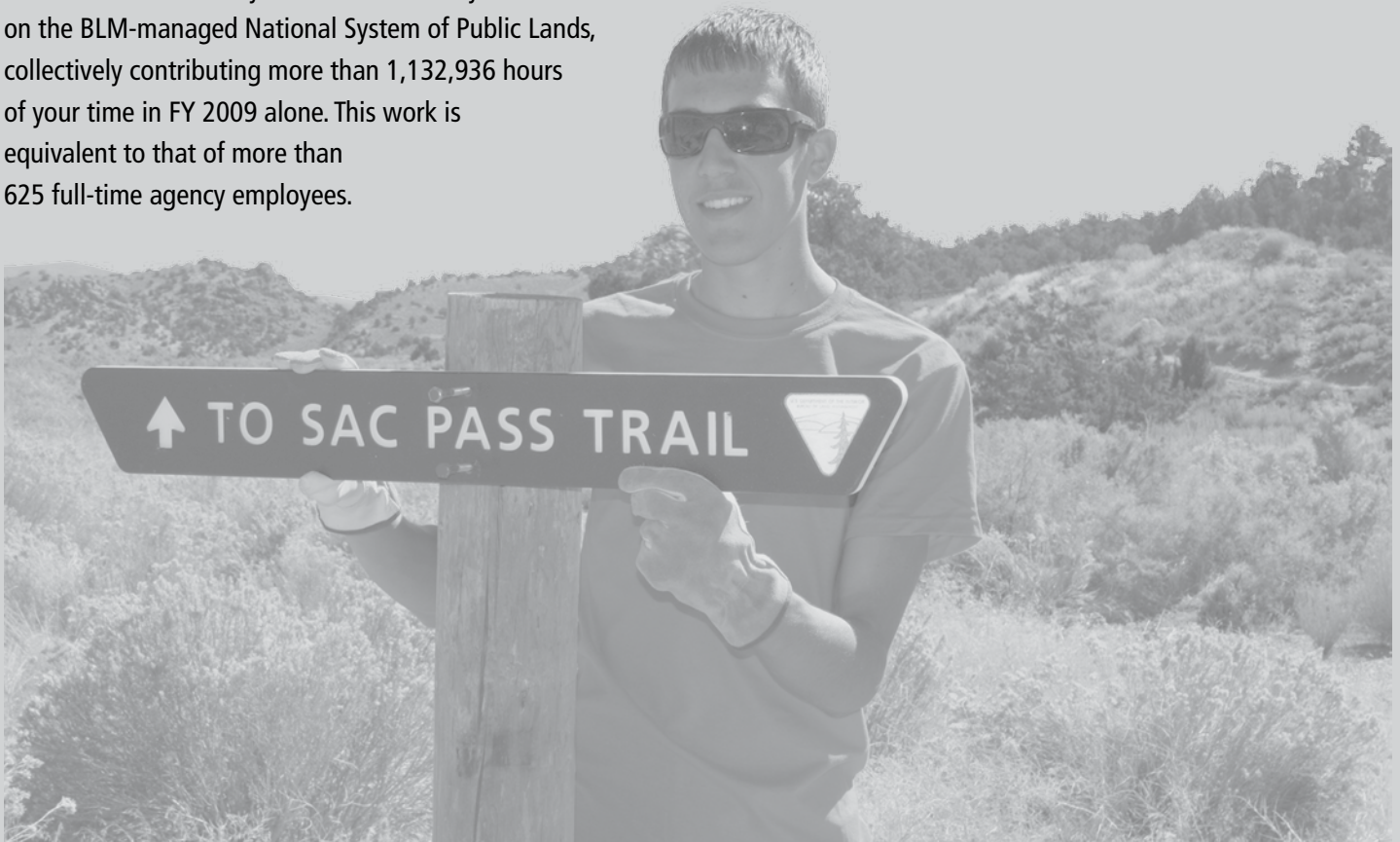
Environmental historian William Cronon once wrote, "We need to discover a common middle ground in which all these things, from the city to the wilderness, can somehow be encompassed in the word 'home.' Home...is the place... we try to sustain so we can pass on what is best in it (and in ourselves) to our children." The BLM employees, as stewards for the vast resources of the public lands, are fortunate to be able to contribute to this vision through their work, ensuring that future generations of Americans have opportunities to enjoy and benefit from America's great outdoors. However, the reality is that the BLM workforce cannot alone sustain the public lands, our common "home," without the assistance of volunteers. Your labors have left a lasting imprint on the earth, and you have left a grand legacy for others to follow. Each of you has done something extraordinary: each of you has made a difference.

Thank you, on behalf of all BLM employees and all Americans, for your valuable service to the BLM and your public lands.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Robert V. Abbey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.

Robert V. Abbey

Director, Bureau of Land Management





Selected HIGHLIGHTS by BLM Program

RECREATION

Glennallen, AK: Through its Volunteer Vacations program, the American Hiking Society has sent 25 volunteers to the Glennallen Field Office over the last four summers to conduct wild and scenic river portage repairs. Volunteers replaced and constructed boardwalks with natural, native materials; created rock steps in steep areas; and improved portage trail drainage within the Gulkana National Wild River and the Delta National Wild and Scenic River.

Phoenix, AZ: The Arizona Off Highway Vehicle Ambassador program is a partnership of agencies and volunteers dedicated to enhancing motorized recreation opportunities and management in Arizona. In 2009, volunteers worked with the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service to educate the public, monitor riding trails, and assist with special projects. Sixty trained volunteers logged 1,195 volunteer hours monitoring 1,100 miles of primitive roads and trails and making 2,400 public contacts. They removed nine trailer loads of trash from public lands, installed trail signs, reported six public safety hazards, and found two stolen vehicles and reported them to the proper law enforcement agency.

Glenwood Springs, CO: About 65 volunteers teamed up to remove nearly ten tons of garbage from the Fravert Reservoir and Hubbard Mesa area located northwest of Rifle, Colorado. The clean-up was a cooperative effort among the BLM, the High Country 4 Wheelers, and other local businesses and off-highway vehicle groups, including Code 4x4, Colorado Custom Cycles, Waste Management, and the Four Wheelers. Many of those who turned out were connected with the construction industry, which loaned heavy equipment including backhoes, skid-steers, bulldozers, dump trucks, and flatbed trailers. The area is a popular location for a variety of recreational, shooting, and off-highway vehicle activities.

Kremmling, CO: Volunteers helped complete two National Public Lands Day projects along the Colorado River. The Gore Canyon Trail project provided safe access to the upper sections of the river, where parts of the trail had become narrow and unsafe for visitors. West Grand High School students utilized rocks as a fulcrum to move three large rock slabs. Volunteers completed basic maintenance of the entire length of the trail corridor. The second group cleaned up dispersed campsites along a 15-mile stretch of the Colorado River between the Pumphouse Recreation Area and State Bridge river corridor. Project partners were West Grand High School, Headwaters Trails Alliance, and the National Sports Center for the Disabled.

Lewistown, MT: Volunteers spruced up an interpretive site and did trail work on the Ear Mountain Trail, in a remote area of the Rocky Mountain Front. The gathering began with a few maintenance projects before moving on to the day's biggest attraction: the dedication of a newly installed interpretive panel about the Métis Indians.

Spokane, WA: The Border Resource Area hosted a National Public Lands Day project at its Rock Creek Recreation Area, across from the historic Escure Brothers cattle and sheep ranch. The area is popular for trout fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and other recreational activities. Volunteers removed old barbed wire and stock fence, and built horse corrals and fences. They used hand tools to do routine

maintenance on a two-track road and trail. Event activities increased space for parking and camping. Thirty-five volunteers included members of the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council, the Backcountry Horsemen, and students from Eastern Washington University's Experiential Programs Inspiring Confidence (EPIC) program, as well as the general public.

Worland, WY: Participants in the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) program assisted in maintaining and enhancing the Middle Fork of the Powder River Campground. Youths painted a kiosk and trashcans, landscaped the area, replaced existing campfire rings with accessible double-walled rings, replaced and stained wooden planks, and constructed new stairs on a popular footbridge. After completing their work, the kids had an opportunity to fish the Powder River, a blue-ribbon trout stream, for a few hours. CORE is a longstanding volunteer and educational program for youth ranging in age from 8 to 18. Headquartered in Casper, CORE performs service trips throughout Wyoming in four to five BLM field offices annually.

CULTURAL and PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Cottonwood, ID: Twenty-three college students from Oregon State University began an excavation at the Cooper's Ferry archaeological site along Idaho's Lower Salmon River. Archaeological features, numerous artifacts, freshwater river mussel shells, bones, and fire-cracked rocks were found and mapped in place. The volunteer time included excavation of the site, monitoring of adjacent archaeological site condition, public interpretation, and artifact curation.

St. George, UT: The Color Country Site Steward program, co-hosted by the St. George Field Office and the St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm, monitored natural- and/or human-caused impacts to archaeological and paleontological resources on public lands in Washington County. Over fifty volunteer site stewards cleaned up litter, installed signage, and reported violations they observe on public lands. The stewards also assisted BLM archaeologists in conducting field surveys, documenting new sites, and completing data recovery projects.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Folsom, CA: Volunteers at the Pine Hill Preserve assisted with habitat maintenance and restoration, vegetation surveys and plant monitoring, trash clean-up, weed pulling, and collecting native seeds. They contributed to fuels reduction activities along the urban-wildland interface areas of the Preserve. They

also assisted with education and outreach activities during community events to promote conservation of rare plants.

Billings, MT: Four volunteers completed maintenance on the Demijohn Catchment in the Pryor Mountains to provide water for bighorn sheep and mule deer. The project included removal of an old wire fence and installation of a new buck-and-rail fence, pipeline repair, guzzler trough installation, and general clean-up of old debris, fencing, and pit-liner materials.

Winnemucca, NV: Twenty-one people planted 875 sagebrush seedlings on the northern end of the Double H Mountains in northern Humboldt County. This is the first planting of a long-term project designed to re-establish thermal cover and restore sage grouse habitat. It will re-establish Wyoming big sage communities that have burned in multiple lightning fires in the past few years. This is a cooperative effort among the BLM, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Nevada Muley Foundation, local volunteers, and Lowry High School in Winnemucca.

WILD HORSES AND BURROS

Billings, MT: Members of the Montana Conservation Corps and volunteers from the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center in Lovell, WY, joined BLM personnel to install guzzlers throughout the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. The guzzlers were designed to collect precipitation and serve as supplementary water sources for wild horses and wildlife. The additional water sources should help to more evenly distribute the horses throughout the range, resulting in better utilization of forage.

WILDERNESS

Salmon, ID: The Salmon Chapter of the Backcountry Horseman provided 19 volunteers to construct approximately 800 feet of jack-'n'-pole fence and approximately 6,000 feet of wildlife-friendly, post-wire fence along the Eighteen mile Wilderness Study Area (WSA) boundary. These fences will restrict vehicle access and protect wilderness values within the WSA, and provide for the safe movement of elk, deer, and pronghorns in and out of the fenced WSA boundaries.



RIPARIAN and WATERSHED

Grand Junction, CO: Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado partnered with Centennial Canoe Outfitters on a four-day project along the Colorado River. Forty-five volunteers spent their time cutting invasive tamarisk and planting new cottonwood saplings in their place. Centennial Canoe provided volunteer guides and equipment, and was responsible for all food for volunteers. This project completed the tamarisk removal effort within the extremely popular Black Rocks camping area.



McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area, CO: The Friends of McInnis Canyons partnered with Adventure Bound River Expeditions to begin an ongoing volunteer project called "the Cottonwood Club." Volunteers who sponsored new cottonwood trees along the Colorado River had the opportunity to plant the trees themselves, with assistance provided by Adventure Bound, a local commercial outfitter. Volunteers planted 30 cottonwood trees as part of this initiative.



Amarillo, TX: Sixty National Public Lands Day volunteers helped with restoration activities along West Amarillo Creek on the Cross Bar Cooperative Management Area. Six BLM sawyers cut down dead salt cedar from the creek's banks, and the volunteers followed behind, pulling out cut trees and branches and stacking them to serve as quail habitat. Volunteers cleared a little more than 300 yards of stream bank in one day, making room for cottonwood and willow cuttings that volunteers plant along the creek each spring.

EDUCATION and INTERPRETATION

Anchorage, AK: On a rainy Saturday, 130 hearty volunteers completed ten different projects on the Campbell Tract and Far North Bicentennial Park for National Public Lands Day. Volunteers helped to improve five trails, pulled non-native invasive weeds, and installed signs for a compass course. They also beautified the Science Center gardens, spread grass seed on playing fields, and spread woodchips on activity areas. That afternoon, the Science Center hosted its annual Open House, which featured a "Take It Outside: Connect with Your Public Lands" theme. Kids used "passports" to visit the stations, do hands-on activities, and earn stamps for prizes.

ENERGY and MINERALS

Moffat, CO: The Kerber Creek Restoration Project was begun in 2005 to repair damage caused between the late 1800s and mid-1900s by activities within the Bonanza Mining District. Mine wastes containing heavy metals have caused the death of vegetation and aquatic life, erosion, and decreased water quality. Two AmeriCorps VISTA members recruited 29 volunteers for a weekend at Kerber Creek. The group planted willow plugs, reseeded the steep riverbanks, and placed erosion control structures such as wattles and sedge mats. Though currently listed on Colorado's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of contaminated waterways, Kerber Creek is steadily improving through this type of volunteer restoration effort.

Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, AZ: As a part of the Hohokam Middle School Youth in Wilderness Program, fifty enthusiastic students, a dozen teachers, parent leaders, and Pascua Yaqui Youth Mentors set up camp at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. They participated in three days of BLM habitat restoration projects and outdoor education programs. The students made 1.5 miles of fence wildlife-friendly by removing the lower strand of barbed wire and replacing it with a smooth wire to enable wildlife to safely enter and exit cattle pastures. By removing overgrown plants, volunteers restored two ponds that are important habitat for leopard frogs and neotropical migratory birds.

Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, CA: At the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, an on-site volunteer docent program provided educational programs to students and adults. Students from local school districts participated in three-hour indoor and outdoor studies on topics ranging from desert ecology and the importance of protecting wetlands to Native American uses of plants in the Preserve. The on-site education facility provided microscopes, computers, field guides, and research books for use by program participants. Hosts and docents led public tours, hikes, and bird walks through this internationally recognized birding site.

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, CA: The Friends of the Desert Mountains provided both financial and volunteer support for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center. Volunteers greeted and educated visitors, led interpretive walks on nearby nature trails, and provided information on local attractions. Their hiking programs incorporated educational talks on a variety of nature subjects. In addition, volunteers assisted with invasive plant removal and other habitat restoration projects, including plant and animal species monitoring.

Washington, DC: Volunteers helped the BLM Eastern States Office with Kids Fishing Day at the pond in Constitution Gardens on the National Mall. Approximately 300 fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders from surrounding areas in Maryland and the District of Columbia participated in this outdoor environmental learning experience. Students learned about fishing and boating safety, casting off, fishing procedures, and teamwork.

Eugene, OR: More than thirty volunteers from the Willamette Resource Education Network (WREN) provided 194 Environmental Education presentations for 7,200 visiting students at the West Eugene Wetlands. WREN received a 2009 "Making a Difference" BLM National Volunteer Award for work performed in 2008.

OTHER

Anasazi Heritage Center and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, CO: Volunteers assisted in every aspect of Monument and Anasazi Heritage Center operations. They provided visitor information, assisted with

museum shop management, developed and presented educational programs, prepared artifacts for storage and research, and processed library research requests. Outdoors, they maintained and landscaped the facility, monitored the condition of cultural resource sites and wilderness study areas, documented road conditions and off-highway vehicle damage, collected trash, and reclaimed unauthorized trails.

SPECIAL EVENTS

BLM "Making A Difference" National Volunteer Awards—Four individuals, one couple, two groups, and a Bureau of Land Management employee received the prestigious BLM "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards for their public service contributions in 2009. Individual honorees were: John Scheuring, Ironwood Forest National Monument, AZ; Matt Dillon, Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, MT; Pat and Chuck Williams, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, NV; Khrystyl Best, Fisherman's Bend Recreation Site, OR; and Chuck Frazier, Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, OR. California's Piedras Blancas Light Station Outstanding Natural Area Volunteers and Nevada's Red Rock Canyon Cultural Resource Team received group awards. Noël Stephens of the California Desert District Office was the winning BLM employee. Half of the award winners were acknowledged for work on sites within the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System. Photos and winner profiles are available on the BLM Volunteer Program website at www.blm.gov/volunteer.

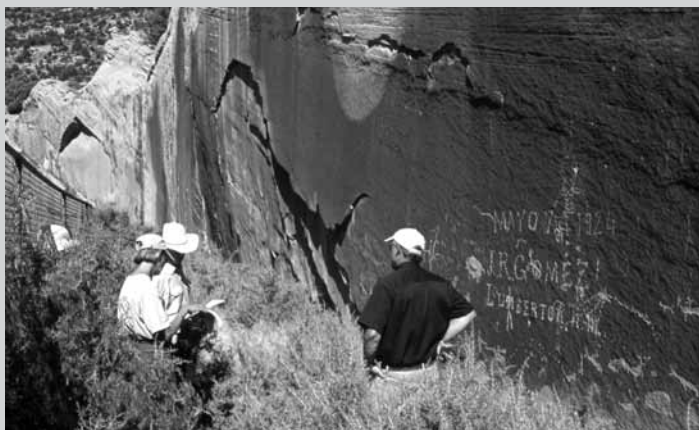
National Public Lands Day—In 2009, NPLD engaged the services of an estimated 150,000 volunteers working on 2,500 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several American locations overseas. Of these numbers, 10,000+ BLM volunteers performed work at 112 sites hosted by 87 field offices in 18 states. These projects produced millions of dollars in enhancements to the BLM's public lands and facilities. More information on National Public Lands Day is available at www.publiclandsday.org.



NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

The contributions of volunteers to the units of the BLM's National Conservation System (NLCS) are vitally important to achieving its mission goals. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, volunteers contributed 447,177 hours to NLCS lands that include national monuments, national conservation areas, wild and scenic rivers, national scenic and historic trails, and wilderness and wilderness study areas. These hours are included in the figures in the charts presented in this report.

Community support for the mission of the NLCS and BLM is reflected in the hundreds of people who volunteered their time at such sites as the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, pictured below. Volunteers contributed 16,642 hours to the Monument and Anasazi Heritage Center, a BLM-operated museum of the Ancestral Puebloan (or Anasazi) culture and other Native cultures in the Four Corners region. It serves as the visitor starting point for the Monument.



National Volunteer Totals for Fiscal Year 2009			
Program	Volunteer Hours ¹	Donated/Hosted Worker Hours ¹	Total Hours ³
Recreation	415,141	102,241	517,382
Biological Resources	66,535	29,776	96,311
Wild Horses and Burros	34,591	90,490	125,081
Cadastral Survey	813	0	813
Wilderness, WSA	19,806	4,974	24,780
Riparian, Watershed	17,537	15,095	32,632
Cultural, Historic	126,935	2,270	129,205
Minerals	5,212	3,023	8,235
Support Services	69,393	13,203	82,596
Environmental Education/Interpretation	72,577	5,874	78,451
Other	33,000	4,450	37,450
Total ³	861,540	271,396	1,132,936
Funds Expended ^{2,3}	\$742,501	\$372,502	\$1,115,003
Value of Work ^{2,3}	\$17,963,109	\$5,658,607	\$23,621,716

Volunteer Activity for Fiscal Years 2004-2009					
Year	Total Hours	Value to BLM	Work Years	Value of 1 Work Hour	Value of 1 Work Year ^{1,2}
2009	1,132,936	\$23,621,716	629	\$20.85	\$37,530
2008	1,202,257	\$24,345,704	668	\$20.25	\$36,450
2007	1,285,678	\$25,083,572	714	\$19.51	\$35,118
2006	1,346,674	\$25,277,121	748	\$18.77	\$33,786
2005	1,292,859	\$23,323,176	718	\$18.04	\$32,472
2004	1,506,365	\$26,436,706	837	\$17.55	\$31,590

¹ The value of volunteer contributions is calculated annually by Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org), a national leadership forum committed to volunteerism and citizen action. The dollar figure is based on the latest data available for the average hourly wage for nonagricultural workers as published in the yearly *Economic Report of the President*.

² 1 work year = 1,800 hours

Summary of BLM State Office Volunteer Contributions, Fiscal Year 2009				
State	Hours	Value ¹	Work Years ²	Number of Individuals
Alaska	23,015	\$479,863	13	403
Arizona	126,153	\$2,630,290	70	3,901
California	181,849	\$3,791,552	101	10,548
Colorado	188,579	\$3,931,862	105	3,386
Eastern States	25,916	\$540,349	14	625
Idaho	42,338	\$882,747	24	1,024
Montana/Dakotas	26,895	\$560,761	15	710
New Mexico	94,368	\$1,967,573	52	669
Nevada	84,059	\$1,752,630	47	2,229
Oregon/Washington	214,850	\$4,479,623	119	5,166
Utah	96,728	\$2,016,779	54	1,634
Wyoming	27,432	\$571,957	15	618
Natl. Interagency Fire Center	25	\$521	<1	3
National Operations Center	729	\$15,200	<1	1
Total ³	1,132,936	\$23,621,716	629	30,917

¹ Based on a rate of \$20.85 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org)

² 1 work year = 1,800 hours

³ Totals may be off slightly as a result of rounding.

◀ ¹ The term "volunteer," as used in the rest of this report, includes "donated workers." Volunteers work for the BLM without pay. They donate their time, and in some instances, equipment and money to assist BLM with a variety of jobs. Donated or hosted workers, on the other hand, are paid by another organization but work for BLM at no charge. Hosted workers made up about 31.5 percent of the total volunteer time in 2009.

² The 2009 volunteer program was accomplished at a cost of \$1,115,003, for a return of about \$21.19 for every \$1.00 expended.

³ Totals may be off slightly as a result of rounding.

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Cover: As part of a 2009 National Public Lands Day project co-hosted by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service near Lakeview, Oregon, young volunteers happily spruce up a trailhead vault toilet.

For more information on the BLM Volunteer Program, please visit our website at www.blm.gov/volunteer.